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Consumer Price Index, South Region – January 2017

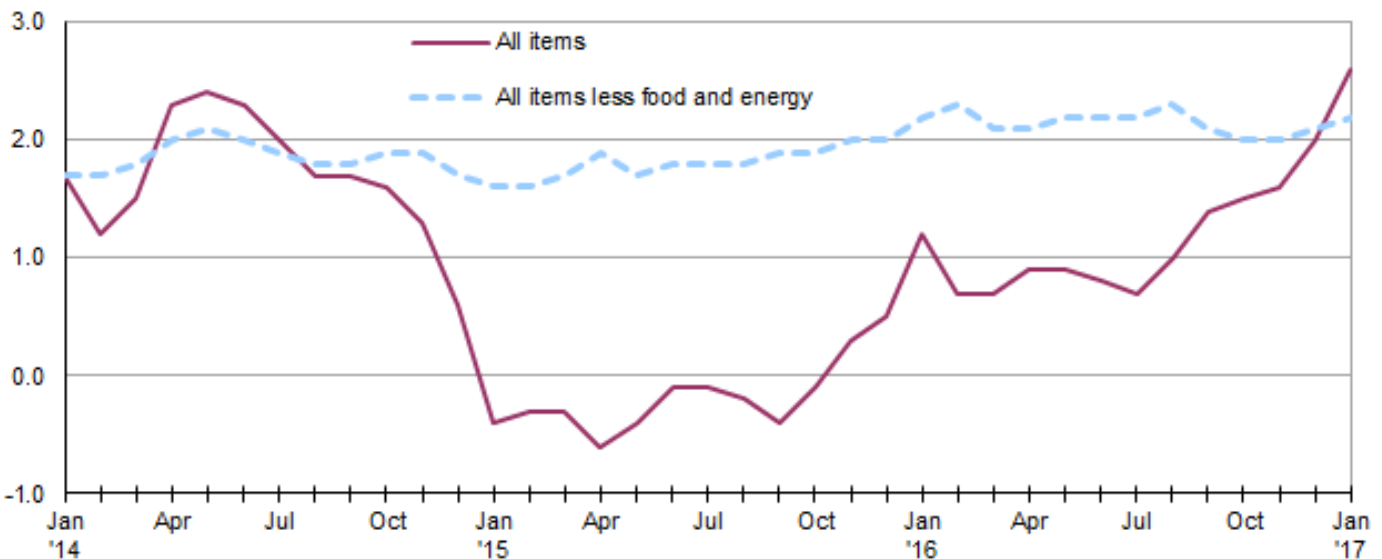
Regional prices up 0.5 percent over the month and 2.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.5 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent the over the month. The energy index increased 3.2 percent and the food index rose 0.4 percent in January. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U advanced 2.6 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.2 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, January 2014–January 2017

Percent change



Food

The food index increased 0.4 percent in January, as prices for food at home and for food away from home rose 0.4 percent each over the month.

The food index inched up 0.1 percent over the year. The food away from home index increased 2.0 percent since January 2016, while the food at home index declined 1.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 3.2 percent in January, led by a 5.0-percent increase in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also advanced over-the-month, up 1.4 and 2.7 percent, respectively.

From January 2016—January 2017, energy prices advanced 12.3 percent, reflecting a 25.5-percent increase for motor fuel prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity also increased, up 12.6 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.3 percent in January. Shelter prices, up 0.3 percent, and a rise in medical care prices (0.7 percent) contributed to the increase.

Since January 2016, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 percent—led by price increases in shelter (2.8 percent) and medical care (4.4 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7		
March.....	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7		
April.....	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9		
May.....	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9		
June.....	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8		
July.....	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7		
August.....	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0		
September.....	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4		
October.....	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5		
November.....	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6		
December.....	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0		

The Consumer Price Index for February 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and

approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	234.029	234.204	235.492	2.6	0.6	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	379.627	379.912	382.001	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.788	245.520	246.452	0.1	0.3	0.4
Food	247.037	246.747	247.693	0.1	0.3	0.4
Food at home	236.182	235.233	236.101	-1.4	0.0	0.4
Food away from home.....	266.057	266.747	267.820	2.0	0.7	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	227.962	228.026	228.750	0.7	0.3	0.3
Housing	227.337	227.697	228.679	2.5	0.6	0.4
Shelter	260.571	261.061	261.775	2.8	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	269.896	270.779	271.433	3.5	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	263.060	263.599	264.106	2.8	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	263.050	263.588	264.095	2.8	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	226.832	226.973	229.891	2.7	1.3	1.3
Household energy	182.759	182.833	185.703	2.6	1.6	1.6
Energy services(1)	183.105	183.116	185.954	2.6	1.6	1.5
Electricity(1).....	180.696	180.898	183.384	1.2	1.5	1.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	184.137	182.862	187.842	12.6	2.0	2.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	120.947	121.013	121.672	0.1	0.6	0.5
Apparel.....	136.965	132.997	131.261	2.7	-4.2	-1.3
Transportation	196.260	197.939	201.201	6.7	2.5	1.6
Private transportation	194.158	196.169	199.549	7.2	2.8	1.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	101.580	101.741	102.490	-0.3	0.9	0.7
New vehicles	152.913	153.638	155.821	1.4	1.9	1.4
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	104.144	104.653	106.164	1.4	1.9	1.4
New cars(4).....	152.901	153.872	156.147	1.2	2.1	1.5
Used cars and trucks.....	138.408	138.051	138.088	-3.6	-0.2	0.0
Motor fuel	185.917	191.344	200.901	25.5	8.1	5.0
Gasoline (all types).....	184.951	190.368	199.933	25.6	8.1	5.0
Unleaded regular(4)	180.168	185.594	195.212	26.4	8.3	5.2
Unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	205.061	210.919	219.859	23.1	7.2	4.2
Unleaded premium(4).....	205.984	210.550	218.880	21.2	6.3	4.0
Medical care	448.405	448.393	451.354	4.4	0.7	0.7
Medical care commodities.....	364.936	364.080	367.199	6.3	0.6	0.9
Medical care services.....	476.165	476.493	479.353	3.8	0.7	0.6
Professional services	367.724	368.037	367.591	2.5	0.0	-0.1
Recreation(3).....	116.476	116.351	116.842	0.5	0.3	0.4
Education and communication(3).....	136.608	136.085	136.461	-0.5	-0.1	0.3
Other goods and services	417.433	418.568	416.620	1.3	-0.2	-0.5
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	234.029	234.204	235.492	2.6	0.6	0.5
Commodities	179.728	179.734	181.182	2.3	0.8	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	148.456	148.572	150.187	3.8	1.2	1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	191.416	191.577	193.840	7.9	1.3	1.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	225.666	228.060	232.541	9.5	3.0	2.0
Durables	108.172	108.248	109.293	-1.0	1.0	1.0
Services.....	288.667	289.007	290.153	2.8	0.5	0.4
Rent of shelter(2).....	267.453	267.954	268.694	2.8	0.5	0.3
Transportation services	333.871	334.999	336.274	5.4	0.7	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016
Other services	339.542	339.068	339.880	1.0	0.1	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.329	222.512	223.712	2.5	0.6	0.5
All items less food	231.795	232.042	233.381	3.1	0.7	0.6
All items less shelter.....	224.716	224.763	226.297	2.5	0.7	0.7
Commodities less food	150.905	151.020	152.619	3.7	1.1	1.1
Nondurables	217.186	217.142	218.767	3.6	0.7	0.7
Nondurables less food.....	193.264	193.420	195.601	7.4	1.2	1.1
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	224.766	226.961	231.118	8.8	2.8	1.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	324.366	324.513	326.209	2.8	0.6	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	271.774	272.110	273.123	2.7	0.5	0.4
Energy	180.329	182.769	188.535	12.3	4.6	3.2
All items less energy	240.795	240.722	241.521	1.9	0.3	0.3
All items less food and energy	240.109	240.074	240.848	2.2	0.3	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.385	146.754	147.256	0.4	-0.1	0.3
Energy commodities.....	189.332	194.807	204.425	25.0	8.0	4.9
Services less energy services.....	299.819	300.196	301.145	2.8	0.4	0.3

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.